



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS APPLAUDS
\$154.6 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT TO ENHANCE COUNTY'S
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**

LOS ANGELES – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today applauded the award of a \$154.6 million federal grant through the Broadband Technology Program to enhance emergency communications throughout the County by supporting the Los Angeles Interoperable Communications System Authority (LA-RICS).

Launched in 2009, LA-RICS is a joint effort of the Los Angeles region's public safety agencies to plan and deploy a regional, interoperable radio system, enabling first responders to communicate with each other during routine and emergency operations.

The grant will provide a modern, integrated wireless voice and data communications system capable of supporting more than 34,000 first responders and local mission-critical personnel within the region.

"This is a major step toward assuring that in the event of a major catastrophe, residents, schools, employees and businesses throughout the County will benefit from enhanced state-of-the-art communications services for our first responders," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said.

"Whether challenges to our public safety operations are the result of natural or man-made factors, LA-RICS will provide vital communications resources to our entire network of law enforcement and public safety personnel," the Supervisor added.

Chaired by L.A. County Chief Executive Officer William T. Fujioka, LA-RICS is governed by a 17-member board of directors comprised of regional first responder stakeholders.

With over 80 public safety agencies encompassing a sprawling terrain of over 4,060 square miles that approximately 10 million people call home, the Los Angeles region is developing a modern interoperable public safety broadband network that allows multiple agencies to respond to the widest possible variety of emergencies in the shortest amount of time.

The network will enable computer-aided dispatch, rapid law-enforcement queries, real-time video streaming, medical telemetry and patient tracking, geographic information systems services for first responders, and many other broadband-specific applications.

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